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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,049	04/12/2004	Kurt R. Goldsmith	42P18726	4091

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VINH P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,049

Applicant(s)

GOLDSMITH ET AL.

Examiner

VINH P. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 34-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-15, 17-20, 22- 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 10, 16, 21 and 34-36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2829

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/03/06 has been entered.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

It appears that the limitation of “a generally planar surface and **one of contacts and traces surrounding the generally planar surfaces such that the generally planar surface is accessible to a pick and place vacuum force attachment**” as recited in claim 1 raise new matter since the new added new limitation does not have original support in the specification.

The dependent claims not specifically address share the same indefiniteness as they depend from rejected base claims.

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature of a generally planar surface and **one of contacts and traces surrounding the generally planar surfaces** as recited in claim 1 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. Claims 9-10,12,16,18,20-21,34-36 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 8, it is unclear which part of apparatus in which "a thickness" belongs to. Furthermore, it is unclear how the second side is related and associated with the test device portion.

In claims 9-10, it is unclear what “one mechanical attachment point” comprises of. Is it shown in any of drawings?

In claim 12, it is unclear what “a plurality of contacts” comprises of. Are these contacts the same as “a plurality of energy conduits” of the test device portion.

In claim 16, the limitation of “conduits disposed on the first side” is improperly claimed since if the “conduits disposed within the apparatus between the first and the second side”, it is impossible to have conduits disposed on the first side.

In claim 18, it is unclear how “contacts” on the first side is related and associated with the energy conduits of a test device portion in claim 8. Are they the same.

In claim 20 and 34, it is unclear which part of apparatus in which “a thickness” is belong to.

In claim 21, it is unclear whether “energy conduits” in this claim are different from the energy conduits” from claim 20 and how they are interrelated and associated with each other.

In claims 35-36, it is unclear how “a thickness” of this claim is interrelated and associated with the “thickness” as recited in claims 8 and 20 respectively.

Appropriate correction is required.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by (Pat # 5,436,570).

Since the limitation of “a generally planar surface and **one of contacts and traces surrounding the generally planar surfaces**” is considered as new matter, this limitation is not given any patentable weight

As to claim 1, Tan discloses an apparatus for testing a socket having a first side (5) including a generally planar surface, a lid portion (20) including the first side (5) including a first side and having a dimension at least large enough to cover or extend over a plurality of contacts of a socket (21) and a test device portion (22) integral with the lid portion (20) and having a plurality of energy conduits (15) to provide a response to a plurality of energy stimuli to a second side (22) disposed opposite the first side and a second side (22) having a dimension suitable to be removably coupled to a socket (21).

As to claim 2, it appears that the lid portion (20) includes a dimension to protect the contacts of the socket (21) from impact and electrically coupled from the first side.

As to claim 3, it appears that the energy conduits (15) includes a plurality of stimuli transfer zones (contact surfaces of the conduits (15)).

As to claim 4, it appears that the energy conduits (15) are to transfer a plurality of energy stimuli (test signals) between the second side (22) and the first side (5).

As to claim 5, it appears that the stimuli transfer zones are to transfer the energy stimuli (test signals) between the zones and the contact by electrical contact.

As to claims 6-7, it appears that the stimuli transfer zones (contact surfaces of the conduits (15)) are to couple to the contacts by a coupling causing a force actuation compression or compliance of the contacts through forces from an operator or machine.

7. Claims 8, 11-15, 17-20, ~~21~~ 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by (Pat # 5,436,570).

For the purpose of examining, Examiner reads the test device portion as a second side and the second side as a test device portion.

As to claim 8, Tan discloses an apparatus for testing a socket having a first side (5) including a generally planar surface and a second side/test portion (22) disposed opposite the first side and having a dimension suitable to be removably coupled to a socket (21), a lid portion (20) including the first side (5) including a first side and having a dimension at least large enough to cover or extend over a plurality of contacts of a socket (21) and a test device

portion/second side (22) integral with the lid portion (20) and having a plurality of energy conduits (15) to receive a plurality of energy stimuli from a plurality of contacts of the socket (21) and to provide a response to the contacts. It appears that the test portion (22) has a thickness less than a depth of the cavity (opening area of the socket).

As to claim 11, it appears that the second side is to removeably couple to a socket via a physical restraint.

As to claim 12, it appears that the second side/test portion (22) has a plurality of contacts (15) to electrically coupled to the contacts of the sockets

As to claim 13, the energy stimuli includes an electrical energy (test signal or power signal).

As to claim 14, it appears that the lid portion (20) inherently includes at least an orienting shape with the test device portion (22) disposed near to the socket (21).

As to claim 15, the conduits (15) are electrical contacts.

As to claim 17, each of the conduits (15) has a location and a physical dimension to receive at least one of the plurality of energy stimuli at a first location of the second side/test device portion (22) and respond to the at least one of the plurality of energy stimuli to the first location or to a second location of the second side/test device portion (22).

As to claim 18, Tan discloses a plurality of contacts (4) to receive stimuli (test signals) or to provide a response to stimuli received by the apparatus.

As to claim 19, it appears that the lid (20) includes a material suitable to protect the plurality of contacts from impact damage, dust, dirt and additional electrical coupling.

As to claims 20 and 22, Tan discloses Tan discloses a printed circuit board (17), a socket (21), coupled to the printed circuit board (17), having a cavity and plurality of contacts (19) within the cavity and an apparatus removably coupled to the socket (21) having a first side (5) including a generally planar surface and a second side/test portion (22) disposed opposite the first side and having a dimension suitable to be removably coupled to a socket (21), a lid portion (20) including the first side (5) including a first side and having a dimension at least large enough to cover or extend over a plurality of contacts of a socket (21) and a test device portion/second side (22) integral with the lid portion (20) and having a plurality of energy conduits (15) to receive a plurality of energy stimuli from a plurality of contacts of the socket (21) and to provide a response to the contacts. It appears that the test portion (22) has a thickness less than a depth of the cavity (opening area of the socket). It is noted that the printed circuit board is a burn-in board and this board is inherently connected to a computer.


As to claim 23, it is well known that the computer would include an active electronic device.

As to claim 24, it appears that the lid (20) includes a material suitable to protect the plurality of contacts from impact damage ,dust, dirt and additional electrical coupling.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VINH P. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-1964. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 571-272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


VINH P NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2829
01/19/06